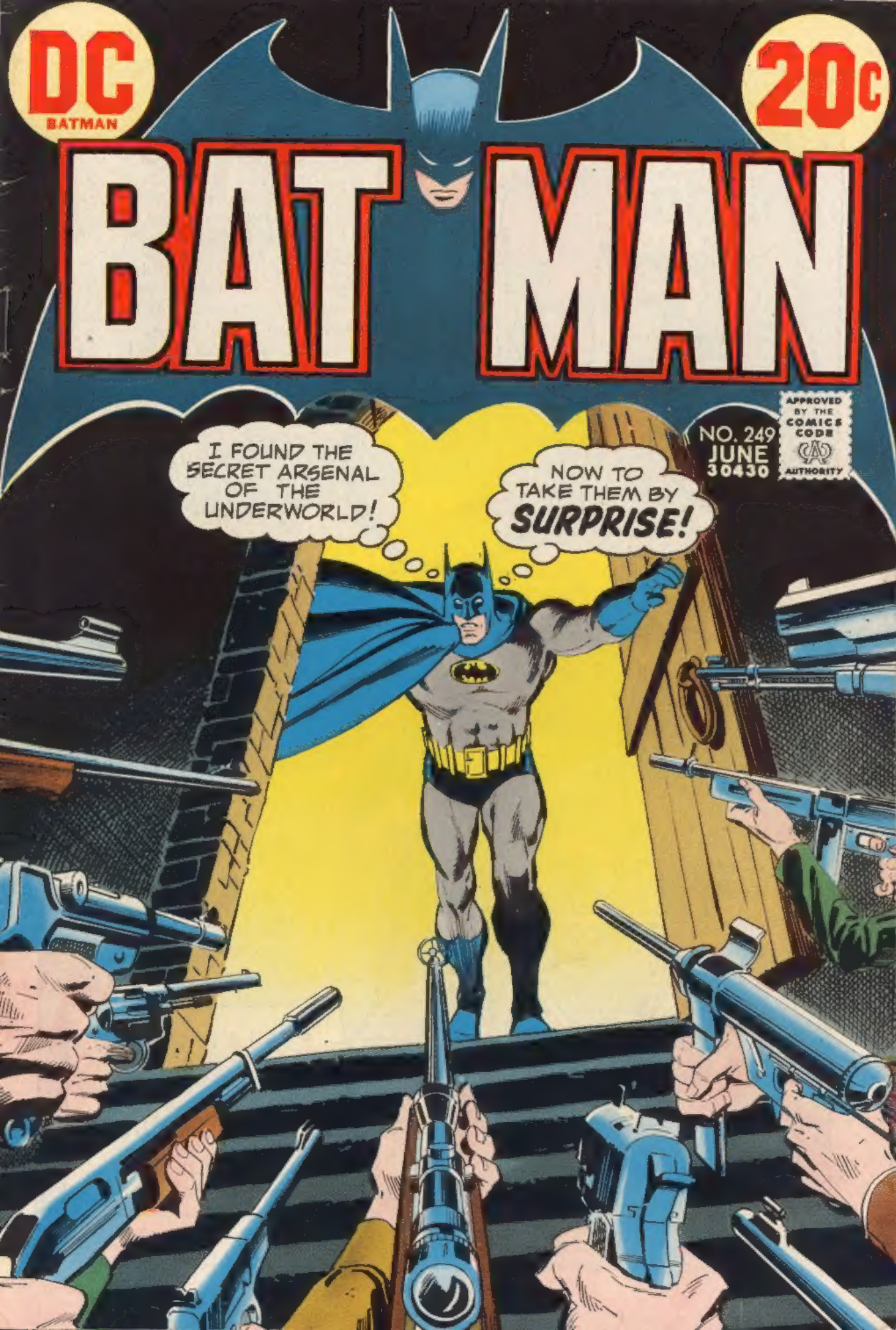
DC
BATMAN
20c
BAT MAN
I FOUND THE SECRET ARSENAL OF THE UNDERWORLD!
NOW TO TAKE THEM BY SURPRISE!
NO. 249
JUNE
30430
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

One for roads.

Real racing requires a different sort of machine. And no one is better equipped to provide it than Raleigh with its long tradition of winning competition all over the world. Here's a new Record 24, which is a scaled down version of a popular adult racer. It's the one racer not-so-grown up racers don't have to grow up for.

One for loads.

The Sprite — one of the spirited Raleigh touring bicycles — is built for effortless bicycling. Rugged enough to take back-packing trips or a sack of daily papers without straining. Choice of 5 or 10 speeds, the Sprite comes equipped with rear carrier and comfortable spring mattress saddle, plus self-adjusting brakes.

Your Raleigh dealer has lots of other possibilities. See him and the 73 Raleigh cycles. If you'd like to see a preview, send 25¢ for our new catalog.

RALEIGH

Raleigh Industries of America
1168 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Mass. 02134

Sure, I'd like your new catalog. Who wouldn't? Enclosed is 25¢ to cover handling.

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

State_____ Zip_____

I'LL GET YOU...
...IF I HAVE TO TEAR DOWN YOUR FORTRESS--STONE BY STONE!
AND THESE STONES, BATMAN-- WILL MARK YOUR GRAVE!
A STEEL-JACKETED GAUNTLET OF FIRE GREETS
The BATMAN
WHEN HE DARES TO CHALLENGE THE AWESOME POWER BEHIND...
"THE CITADEL OF CRIME"
ZING!
BWEE-E-E!
STORY BY FRANK ROBBINS
ART BY IRV NOVICK & DICK GIORDANO
EDITED BY JULIUS SCHWARTZ
S-1468

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FAR UP-RIVER FROM THE GLITTERING LIGHTS OF GOTHAM, THE BATMAN MAINTAINS A LONELY VIGIL...
NOTHING STIRRING OUT THERE!
COULD MY MYSTERY TIPSTER HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN?
YET THAT "CASTLE" HAS BEEN BOARDED UP FOR YEARS... WHICH COULD MAKE IT AN IDEAL GUN-SUPPLY "DEPOT" FOR THE UNDERWORLD!
SUDDENLY, THE DEEP THROB OF POWERFUL ENGINES... AND A FAST LAUNCH STREAKS OUT OF HIDING...
RIGHT UNDER MY NOSE... THEY'VE LOADED UP AND TAKEN OFF!
THIS ISN'T THE FIRST ARMS-CACHE I'VE TRACKED DOWN...
...BUT TO RAID IT NOW WOULD ONLY CLOSE DOWN THIS OPERATION WITHOUT NABBING THE MASTERMIND BEHIND IT!
MAKING HIS WAY BACK TO HIS PENTHOUSE "COVER"...
TIP VERIFIED, ALFRED! AN ARMS SHIPMENT WAS PULLED OFF TONIGHT!
...WITH ANOTHER SCHEDULED FOR THE SAME TIME NEXT WEEK!
WHAT...?! WHERE'D YOU GET THAT INFO?
CAME OVER THE HOT-LINE, SIR-- RELAYED FROM POLICE H.Q.-- FROM THE SAME TIPSTER!
SHE ALSO ADDED THAT THE CITADEL OWNER IS A MEMBER OF THE GOTHAM MEN'S CLUB!
2

DAYS LATER, IN THE OFFICE OF MARLA MANNING, CRUSADING NEWSPAPER-COLUMNIST...
THE NERVE! THE OUTRIGHT GALL OF THAT "MAN"... SENDING CHICKEN-FEED LIKE THIS!
GOTHAM NATIONAL BANK
NO. 703
March 12 19 72
PAY TO THE ORDER OF Gotham After School Recreation Fund $ 100.00
One Hundred & 00/100 DOLLARS
BRUCE WAYNE
Bruce Wayne
BRUCE WAYNE! MEMBER OF GOTHAM'S EXCLUSIVE MEN'S CLUB... WHO I THOUGHT WAS A MAN OF CONSCIENCE...
...WHO CARED ABOUT UNDERPRIVILEGED KIDS!
GOTHAM DAILY TIMES MARCH 13
SOCIETY PAGE
MILLION-DOLLAR BASH SLATED FOR WAYNE MOON-LIGHT SAIL UP GOTHAM RIVER!
...NOT THE MILLIONAIRE-PLAYBOY WHO'D PULL A DISGUSTING STUNT LIKE THIS!
WHAT A SHAMEFUL WASTE OF ALL THAT MONEY!
R-RIP!
MORE THAN ENOUGH TO FUND THE ENTIRE RECREATION PROGRAM!
WHY, I HAVE HALF A MIND TO--
NO! GOT A BETTER IDEA...!
3

THAT NIGHT...
...SO TO DATE, DEAR FRIENDS--OUR FUND HAS REACHED A TOTAL OF $149,100!
ONE HUNDRED OF WHICH WAS A MAGNANIMOUS GIFT BY THAT GREAT PUBLIC BENEFACTOR...
...BRUCE WAYNE, MULTI-MILLIONAIRE!
GROAN
I KNOW JUST HOW YOU FEEL, MASTER BRUCE!
IT SURE HURTS, ALFRED... BUILDING A PUBLIC IMAGE PEOPLE HATE-- BUT AT WHAT A PRICE!
STILL, IT MUST BE DONE, MASTER BRUCE!
IN THE END-- IT'S REALLY FOR THE PUBLIC'S OWN GOOD!
THE NEXT DAY...
THAT'S HIM-- WAYNE, ONE OF THE IDLE RICH!
GOTHAM MEN'S CLUB
YE-AH GONNA PUT IN A BUSY MORNIN' AT HIS SWANK "MEN'S" CLUB!
SPLAT
HAW! NOW HE'S GOT HIS WHOLE DAY CUT OUT FOR HIM...
...CLEANIN' UP-- ON THE STOCK MARKET! YE-AH!
4

SOON, WITHIN THE HALLOWED SANCTUARY OF GOTHAM'S ELITE CLUB...
DON'T LET IT UPSET YOU, WAYNE! THAT'S THE WAY TODAY'S YOUNG PUNKS ARE!
GIVE "THEM" AN ARM...
--AND "THEY" WANT A LEG! THEN--THE WHOLE BODY!--RIGHT, STANFORD?
WALL STREET NEWS
ABRUPTLY...
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY-- YOU'RE NOT PERMITTED IN HERE!
THIS IS A MEN'S--
THE CLOWN I WANT TO SEE-- IS... NO "MAN"!
YES, YOU-- BRUCE WAYNE!
THE KIDS AND I WANT TO SHOW OUR APPRECIATION FOR YOUR MAGNANIMOUS GIFT!
THEY'VE BEEN COLLECTING PENNIES FOR OUR FUND...
...BUT OBVIOUSLY YOU ARE MORE NEEDY THAN THEY ARE!
TUT! TUT! SUCH UNSPEAKABLE MANNERS!
A POSITIVE BOOR OF A WOMAN!
BUT WHEN MARLA HAS GONE...
IF... IF ONLY I COULD TELL HER...!
BUT IT PAID OFF!-- I'VE FINALLY GOTTEN THE SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE CLUB TO ACCEPT ME... AS ONE OF THEM!
5

THE NIGHT OF THE "BASH"... AS HOST BRUCE WAYNE GREETS GUESTS ABOARD HIS YACHT MOORED AT GOTHAM'S PRIVATE MARINA...
HOW UTTERLY FAR-OUT, BRUCE, DEAR! TRANSFORMING YOUR YACHT INTO A FLOATING CABARET!
OUTSTANDING, WAYNE--
A TRIUMPH OF TASTE AND CREATIVITY ONLY TRUE PATRICIANS CAN APPRECIATE!
AND WHAT HIDDEN DELIGHTS DOES THAT BLACKED-OUT BARGE POSSESS?
AH, STANFORD, OLD BOY-- THAT WILL REMAIN HIDDEN TILL THE APPROPRIATE MOMENT!
HIS LIST OF INVITED GUESTS COMPLETE, THE GANGPLANK IS HAULED IN...
THE TRAP IS LAID!
BUT WILL IT NET THE "FISH" I WANT?
TO THE LILTING SOUNDS OF CHAMPAGNE MUSIC AND JOYOUS LAUGHTER, THE CARNIVAL-LIT ASSEMBLAGE PROCEEDS UP THE DARK RIVER... LEAVING THE LIGHTS OF GOTHAM FAR BEHIND...
ALL OF THEM ARE VERY PROPER MEMBERS OF THE "MEN'S CLUB"... THEIR WIVES AND FAMILIES...
...YET ONE OF THOSE MEN IS JUST AS BIG A PHONY AS BRUCE WAYNE!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

Start a great new life of service and adventure in Conservation Country!

These patches represent outdoor careers for which the National School trains you; not the official patches of any State, Federal or private conservation service.

We'll train you in your spare time for an exciting Outdoor Career

Thousands of jobs will be opening up in wildlife management, parks and outdoor recreation, forestry, etc.

Why spend the best days of your life punching a time clock in an office, store or factory — when you may be able to qualify for one of the thousands of new jobs that are coming up in the great outdoors because of concern for conservation and ecology.

Imagine getting paid for work you'll enjoy

Don't settle for only occasional hunting, fishing and boating trips. Live and work right next to nature — in real *man country*—all year round. Every year there are new openings in State and National Parks, the forest industry, game refuges and preserves, private hunting and fishing clubs and recreational facilities.

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The National School of Conservation will help you prepare at home, in your spare time, for an exciting outdoor opportunity. This accredited train-at-home program has been created by experts in the field of conservation. These men have years of on-the-job experience . . . and they share it with you, through every step of your training. You can even keep your present job as you learn at home . . . working at your own pace. National School of Conservation is America's oldest established and accredited home-study conservation school; so you *know* you're in capable hands. When you graduate, National School will assist you in contacting public and private conservation organizations and help you explore available job openings.

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You only live once . . . make it a life of adventure

The man who wears the insignia of a forestry, conservation, wildlife or park agency is a man of *action* called upon to rescue people in danger . . . to enforce our laws and protect our wildlife . . . to direct citizens in time of emergencies . . . even lead fire fighting crews. What's more, the conservationist has the satisfaction of knowing that he is serving his country . . . safeguarding her forests, parks, ranges and wildlife. Future generations will be grateful to him for preserving the natural beauty of our American heritage.

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There are few careers that offer a man such exciting challenges . . . such rich rewards. But a career like this can be yours — even with no experience or college if you train now. Get all the facts. Mail the coupon for your Free Career Guidebook. There's no obligation and no salesman will call on you. National School of Conservation, 1129-20th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

"Thank you for your great course. I highly recommend your school to anyone interested in the field of conservation. I have taken the Civil Service test for Conservation Inspector for the state of Illinois, and received an A for my final grade." — *George E. Wood, Illinois.*

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Without cost or obligation, please rush me the complete CONSERVATION CAREER KIT — FREE! This kit includes complete details on how I can qualify at home, in my spare time, for an exciting career in the great outdoors. No salesman will visit.

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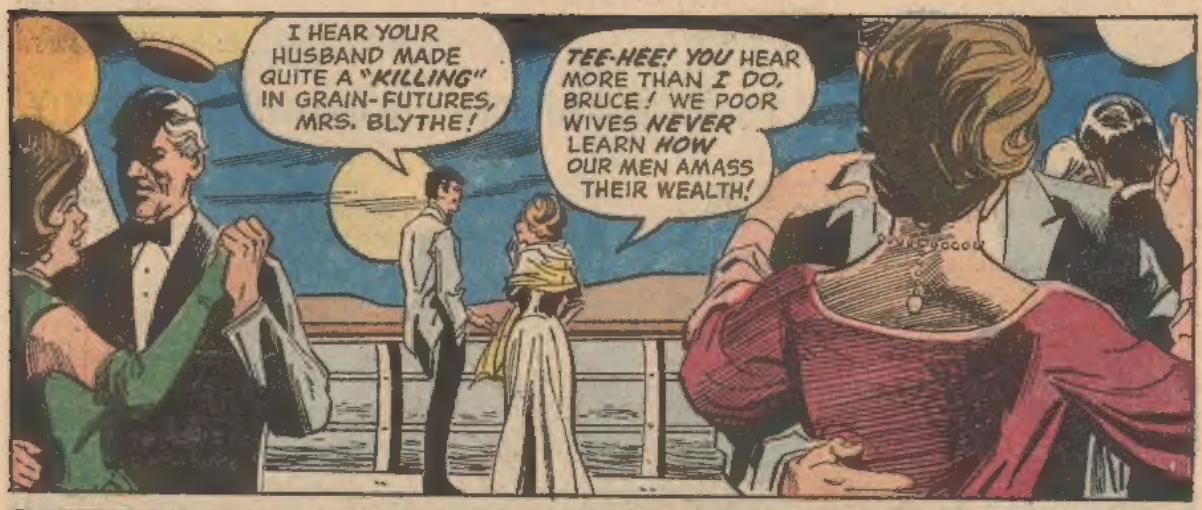
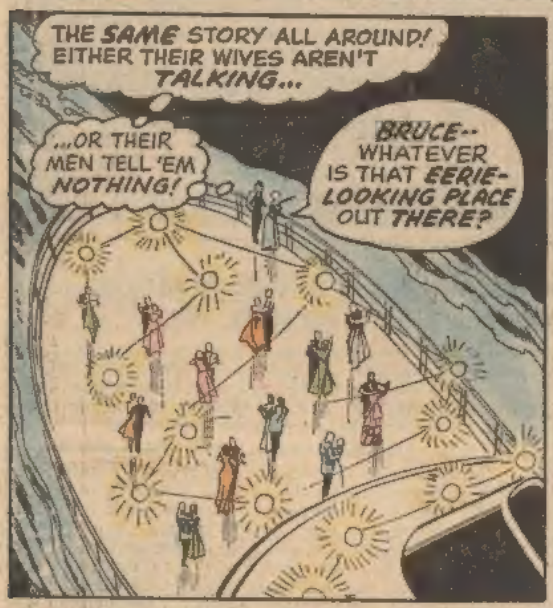
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

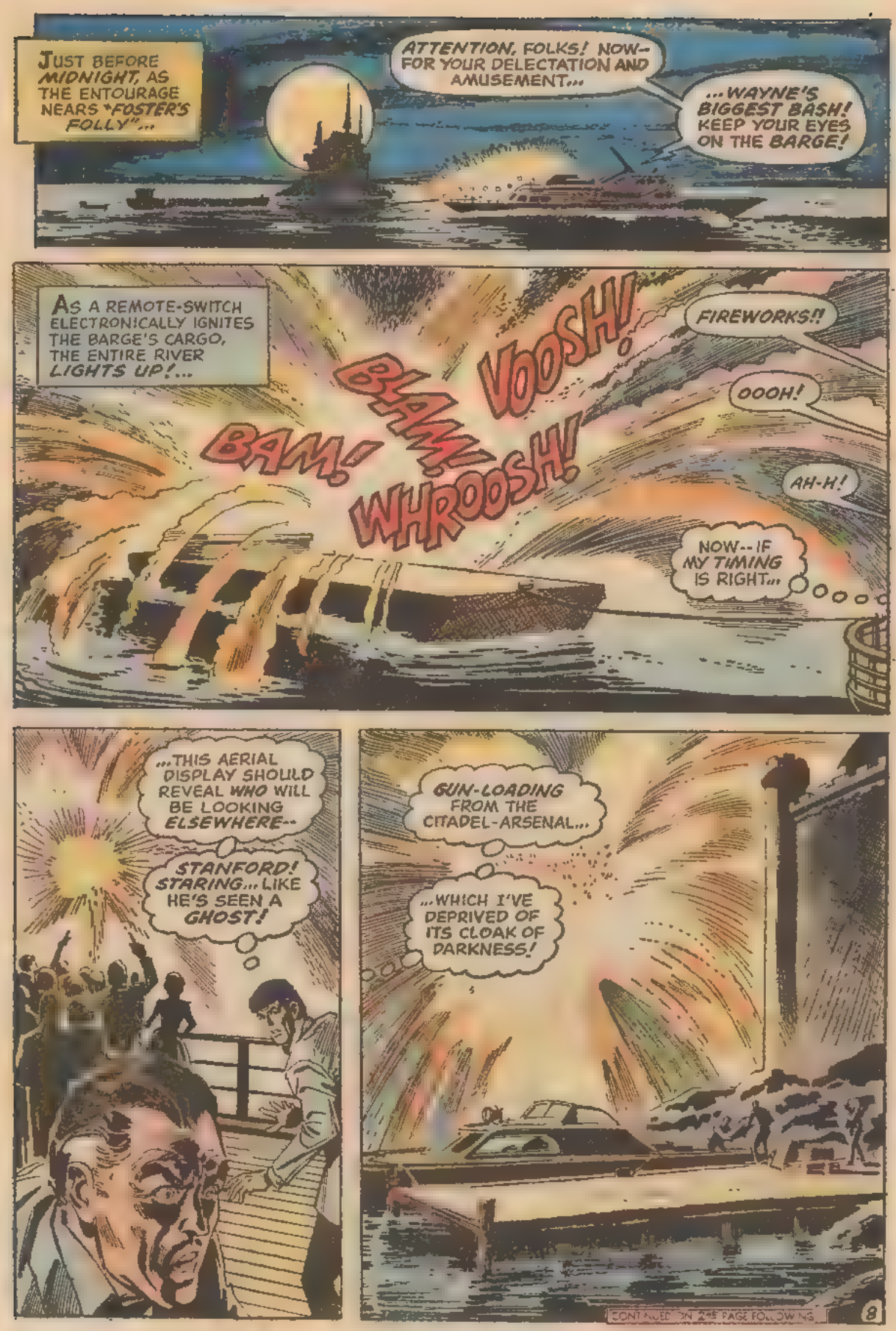

I HEAR YOUR HUSBAND MADE QUITE A "KILLING" IN GRAIN-FUTURES, MRS. BLYTHE!
TEE-HEE! YOU HEAR MORE THAN I DO, BRUCE! WE POOR WIVES NEVER LEARN HOW OUR MEN AMASS THEIR WEALTH!


THE SAME STORY ALL AROUND! EITHER THEIR WIVES AREN'T TALKING...
...OR THEIR MEN TELL 'EM NOTHING!
BRUCE-- WHATEVER IS THAT EERIE-LOOKING PLACE OUT THERE?

OH, THAT-- MRS. BLYTHE?
"FOSTER'S" FOLLY-- THEY CALL IT!

ELMO FOSTER, AN ECCENTRIC ROBBER-BARON AROUND THE TURN OF THE CENTURY-- HAULED THAT CASTLE OVER FROM EUROPE, STONE BY STONE!

AND DIED-- JUST AS THE LAST STONE WAS SET IN PLACE!
IT'S BEEN "JINXED" EVER SINCE! NO ONE SEEMS TO WANT IT!
:HUMPH!: WHAT INVESTOR OF SOUND MIND WOULD WANT A "WHITE ELEPHANT" LIKE THAT, WAYNE?


JUST BEFORE MIDNIGHT, AS THE ENTOURAGE NEARS "FOSTER'S FOLLY"...
ATTENTION, FOLKS! NOW--FOR YOUR DELECTATION AND AMUSEMENT...
...WAYNE'S BIGGEST BASH! KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE BARGE!
AS A REMOTE-SWITCH ELECTRONICALLY IGNITES THE BARGE'S CARGO, THE ENTIRE RIVER LIGHTS UP!...
BLAM!
VOOSH!
BAM!
WHROOSH!
FIREWORKS!!
OOOH!
AH-H!
NOW--IF MY TIMING IS RIGHT...
...THIS AERIAL DISPLAY SHOULD REVEAL WHO WILL BE LOOKING ELSEWHERE--
STANFORD! STARING... LIKE HE'S SEEN A GHOST!
GUN-LOADING FROM THE CITADEL-ARSENAL...
...WHICH I'VE DEPRIVED OF ITS CLOAK OF DARKNESS!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING
8

Super

BODYBUILDING COURSE —

INTRODUCING

THE BODYBUILDING SYSTEM THAT GUARANTEES —

[illegible]

At last, NEW bodybuilding secrets are now available for your use. Finally, after years of experimenting we have come up with the fastest muscle building system in the world. Our course really works — thousands have taken our course and have obtained fantastic results. Right in the privacy or your own bedroom, you can completely transform your body.

SEE YOUR MUSCLES GROW DAY BY DAY!

You can have POWERFUL MUSCLES FAST . . . not by years and years of hard work . . . but by simply following our fascinating system a system that works so fast you can see results from day to day! Isn't that the kind of course you want? We absolutely guarantee results.

HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE LETTERS WE HAVE RECEIVED

"Wow! I'm making fantastic gains, following your new method of muscle building. I never knew it could be so easy to build muscles."
J. Johnson

"In just 3 weeks I have gained 1½" on my arms and 4" on my chest. I have also lost 4" off my waist. Your course is just great!"
D. Roberts

"[illegible] enrolled, now I've [illegible] 30 pounds in just 45 [illegible]. I am truly amazed. I'm going to be dynamite on the beach."
B. Abbott

"I'm transforming all the fat off my body and changing it into rock-hard muscle. It's amazing. I have lost 8" off my waist. I can actually see my muscles growing from day to day."
P. Williams

"I have gained 20 pounds in just 30 days and I have gained [illegible] in sports [illegible] in everything I do.

"I have gained 5" on my arms and 12" on my chest, while losing 3" off my waist. I have tripled my power and speed. Thanks for what you have done for me!"
M. Robinson

MORRIE MITCHELL GAINED 65 POUNDS OF MUSCLE WHILE FOLLOWING OUR 'REVOLUTIONARY NEW METHODS' ON BODYBUILDING.

[illegible] in record time! It wouldn't take long before you can perform feats of strength.

[illegible] muscles fast. You'll have bulging muscles before you know it.

[illegible] ultra-modern methods. It won't take long before your waist shows washboard abdominal muscles.

★ GAIN WEIGHT — You can actually gain up to 50 pounds of rock-hard muscle.

★ LOSE [illegible] — You'll find it easy to get rid of excess fat and replace it with muscle.

★ FEEL 100% BETTER — You can't help but feel great once you own a muscular body.

FREE!

UNIVERSAL BODYBUILDING
Box 488, Dept. S
Dearborn, Mich. 48121

Shoot the 'works' to me free! Rush me all that free muscle-building information, so that I can add inches of powerful muscles — all in the privacy of my home. I am sending 25¢ to help cover postage and handling costs. I am under no obligation. (Please print)

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

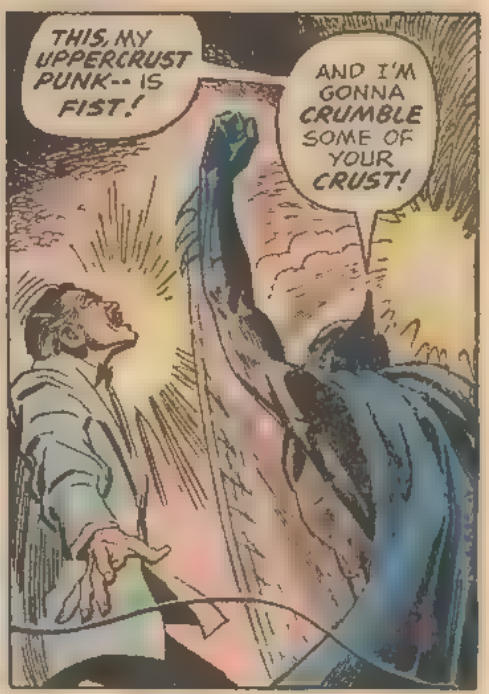
MAIL TODAY

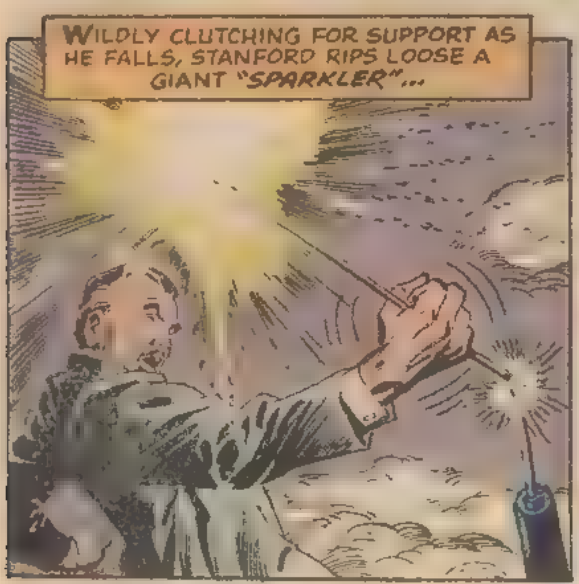
AS THE GUESTS GAZE UP AT THE DAZZLING DISPLAY, OBLIVIOUS TO THE TENSE DRAMA BEING ENACTED ON DECK...
STANFORD'S MAKING HIS MOVE... AND SO AM I!
B-BATMAN?!
PLANNING ON CUTTING LOOSE THAT FIREWORKS-BARGE, STANFORD?
--SO YOUR GANG CAN HAVE THE BLACKOUT THEY NEED?
I'M NOT AS SLOW AS I LOOK, BATMAN!
I MAKE IT MY BUSINESS TO KEEP MY ENEMIES OFF-BALANCE--
--AND MAKING SURE--
--THEY NEVER TROUBLE ME AGAIN!
THUNK!
9

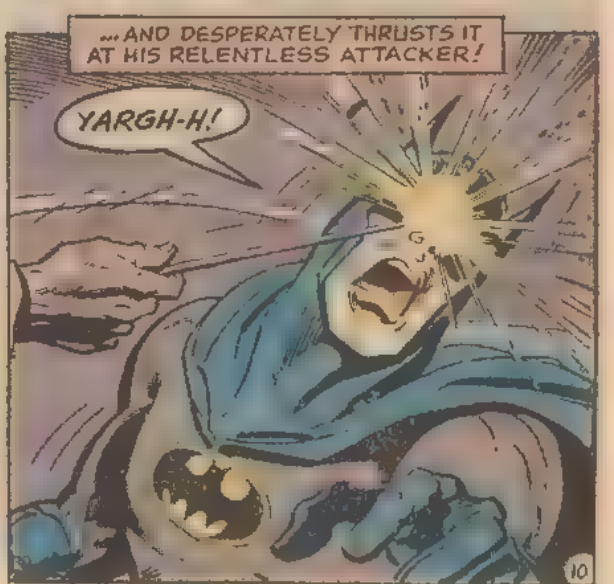
THOSE IDIOTS BACK THERE ARE STILL GAWKING SKYWARD...THEY'VE SEEN NOTHING!
I'VE GOT TO SNUFF OUT THIS BLASTED FIREWORKS GIVEAWAY...BEFORE THEY SPOT OUR LOADING-OPERATION!

NOW TO FIND THE POWER-CABLE CONNECTOR... THROUGH THIS SMOKE...AND BREAK IT!
HAVE TO FEEL MY WAY WITH MY FINGERS...

WH-- WHAT'S THIS?

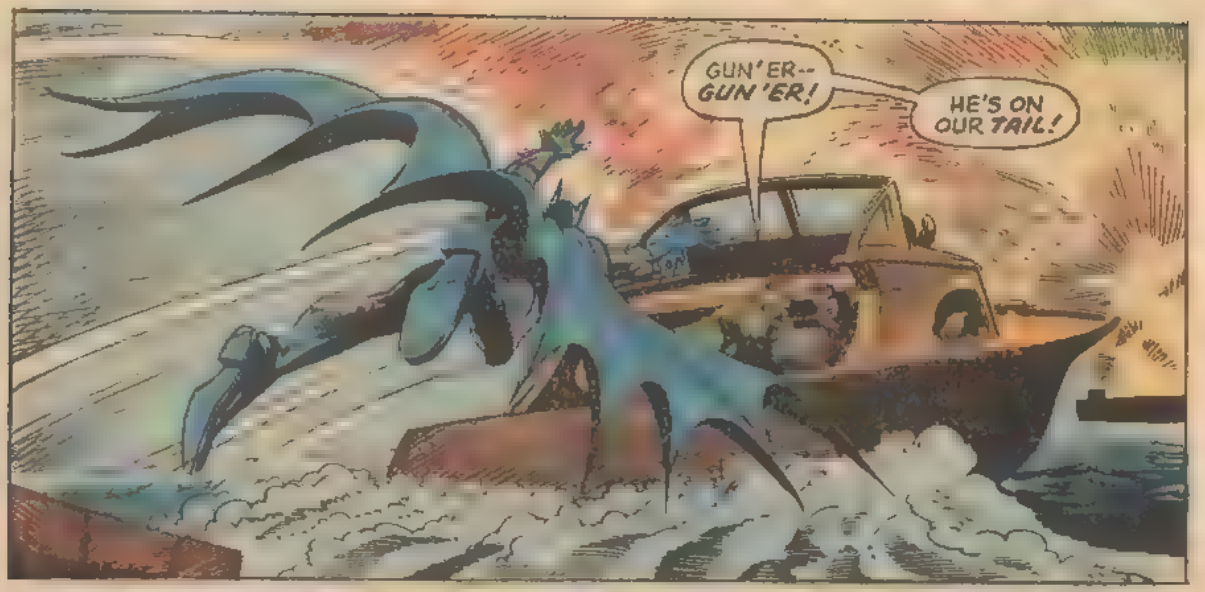

THIS, MY UPPERCRUST PUNK-- IS FIST!
AND I'M GONNA CRUMBLE SOME OF YOUR CRUST!


WILDLY CLUTCHING FOR SUPPORT AS HE FALLS, STANFORD RIPS LOOSE A GIANT "SPARKLER"...

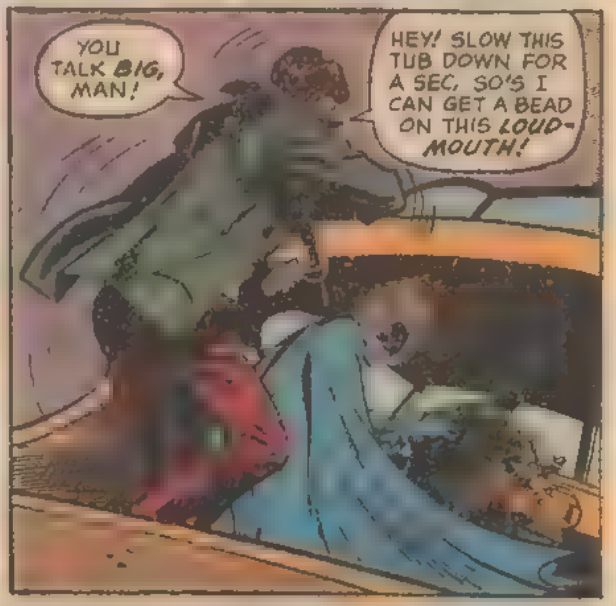

...AND DESPERATELY THRUSTS IT AT HIS RELENTLESS ATTACKER!
YARGH-H!

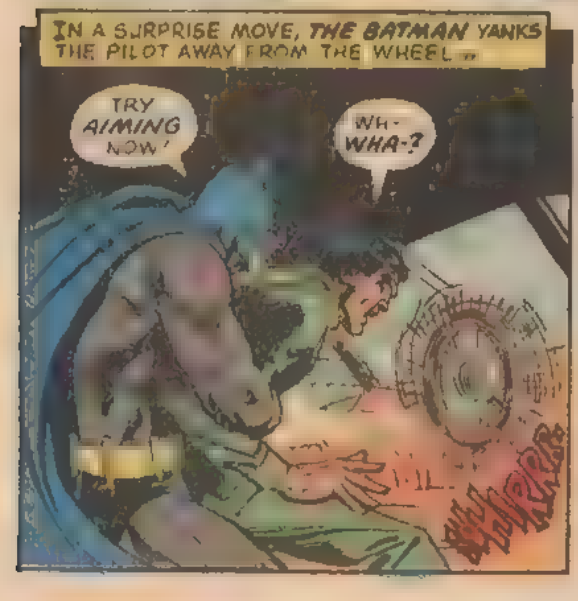
GROPING HIS WAY ASTERN, THE ARMAMENTS KING FINDS A CONVENIENT ESCAPE-ROUTE...
BLASTED BATMAN! HE'S RUINED MY WHOLE OPERATION IN ONE BLUNDERING MOMENT!
NO CHOICE LEFT NOW... BUT TO SKIP TO THE COUNTRY!
IN MOMENTS--ON THE LOADING PIER OF THE CRIME-CITADEL...
HOLD IT! WHO'S THAT...?
ME---YOU FOOL! YOUR BOSS--STANFORD!
IT'S OKAY, BOYS! JUST THE BOSS COMING TO INSPECT THE OPERATION--PERSONAL!
BUT IN THE MASKING DARKNESS...
ONE FURTHER PEEP OUT OF YOU, STANFORD--AND I'LL SNAP YOUR NECK LIKE A TOOTHPICK!

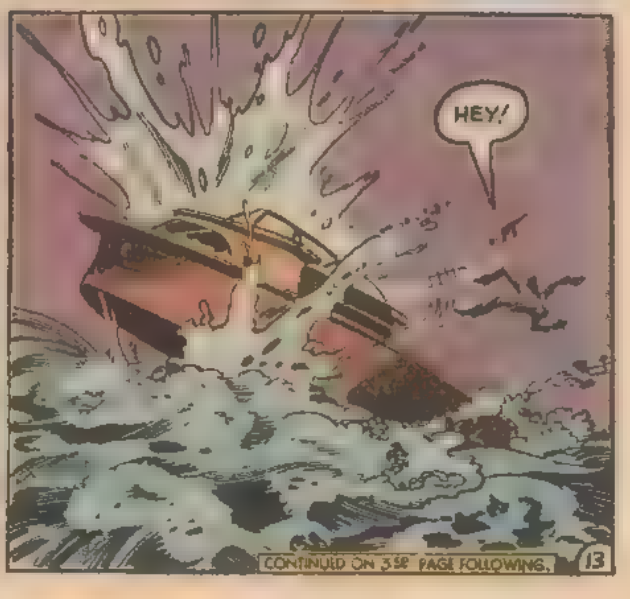
THE WATER I GOT IN MY EYES FROM YOUR DUNKING--
--SHIELDED THEM AGAINST THOSE SPARKS!
AS THE SKIFF SWINGS IN TOWARD THE PIER...
NOW THAT STANFORD HAS SERVED MY PURPOSE-- HE'S OUT OF THE ACTION!...
GAH! TH-THE-- BATMAN!
'IN THE FLESH, CREEP!
YOU SURE THE SAFETY-CATCH ON YOUR GUN IS OFF?
OUGHTA BE-- OOF!
THE HARDER THEY ARE-- THE EASIER THEY FALL FOR A PSYCH!
BR-R-R-R-R!
CAST OFF - FAST!
THAT BAT-GUY IS A REAL BEAST!
12


GUN'ER--
GUN'ER!
HE'S ON OUR TAIL!

AND I'M STAYING ON IT...
...TILL YOU HAVE NOWHERE LEFT TO RUN!


YOU TALK BIG, MAN!
HEY! SLOW THIS TUB DOWN FOR A SEC, SO'S I CAN GET A BEAD ON THIS LOUD-MOUTH!


IN A SURPRISE MOVE, THE BATMAN YANKS THE PILOT AWAY FROM THE WHEEL —
TRY AIMING NOW!
WH-WHA-?
SKRRR


HEY!
CONTINUED ON 35¢ PAGE FOLLOWING.
13

Any 15 records ... $1.97

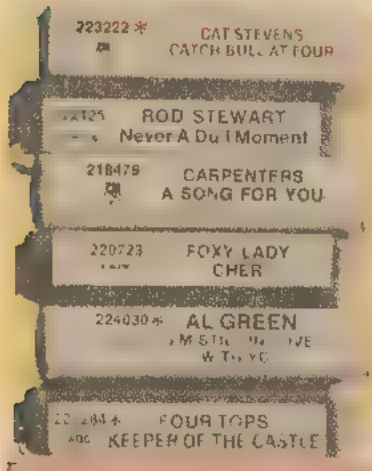
If you join the Columbia Record Club and agree to buy 11 records (at regular Club prices) in the next 2 years

POCO
SANTANA CARAVANSERAI
THE 5th DIMENSION Greatest Hits On Earth
T REX THE SLIDER
CHEECH AND CHONG Big Bambu
LYNN ANDERSON'S GREATEST HITS
JOHNNY MATHIS SONG SUNG BLUE
MELANIE
RAY PRICE
ELTON JOHN HONKY CHATEAU
SONNY & CHER ALL I EVER NEED IS YOU
O JAYS BACK STABBERS
TRILOGY
YES CLOSE TO THE EDGE
CHUCK BERRY
DONNY OSMOND TOO YOUNG
THREE DOG NIGHT Seven Separate
SIMON & GARFUNKEL'S
JAMES GANG PASSIN THROUGH
CHICAGO V
LOOKING GLASS Brandy
CAROLE KING Tapestry
SAMMY DAVIS JR NOW
Blood Sweat & Tears GREATEST HITS
CHER SUPERPACK
OSMONDS "LIVE"
NEIL YOUNG HARVEST
BREAD Baby I'm A Want You
LIZA MINNELLI Liza with a Z
NEIL DIAMOND GOLD
3 DOG NIGHT
ROD STEWART Every Picture Tells A Story
ALICE COOPER SCHOOL'S OUT
PROCOL HARUM LIVE IN CONCERT WITH THE EDMONTON SYMP. ORCH
ROBERTA FLACK FIRST TAKE
HERB ALPERT & THE TIJUANA BRASS GREATEST HITS
BILL WITHERS STILL BILL
ERIC CLAPTON Clapton At His Best
PAUL SIMON
AL GREEN
DON McLEAN American Pie
CHICAGO
CAT STEVENS
BOBBY SHERMAN Greatest Hits
THE PARTRIDGE FAMILY SHOPPING BAG
TEN YEARS AFTER ROCK & ROLL MUSIC OF THE WORLD

* Selections marked with a star are not available in reel tapes

or Any 11 tapes for only $1.97

If you join the Columbia Tape Club and agree to buy 8 tapes (at regular Club prices) in the next 2 years


223222 * CAT STEVENS CATCH BULL AT FOUR
ROD STEWART Never A Dull Moment
218479 CARPENTERS A SONG FOR YOU
220723 FOXY LADY CHER
224030 * AL GREEN
FOUR TOPS KEEPER OF THE CASTLE

223834 CAROLE KING RHYMES & REASONS
NEW BLOOD
220082 NEIL DIAMOND MOODS
JOHNNY NASH I Can See You Clearly
222000 THE PARTRIDGE FAMILY
222745 IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY LIVE at CARNEGIE HALL

221984 * DAVID CASSIDY ROCK ME BABY
223420 BARBRA STREISAND
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[illegible] them) on the response card and mail it by the date specified . . . **and from time to time** we will offer some special selections, which you may reject by mailing the dated response form provided . . . or accept by simply doing nothing.

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Broadway & Hollywood | Country | Jazz

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TAPES

MY MAIN MUSICAL INTEREST IS (check one box only)

Easy Listening | Teen Hits | Country | Classical

[illegible] any selection, I'll mail the card provided by the date specified or [illegible] any time I decide after buying eleven tapes, using the dated card provided.

Mr.
Mrs
Miss
(Please Print) First Name Initial Last Name

Address [illegible]

City [illegible] State & Zip [illegible]

Do You Have A Telephone? (check one) YES [illegible] NO

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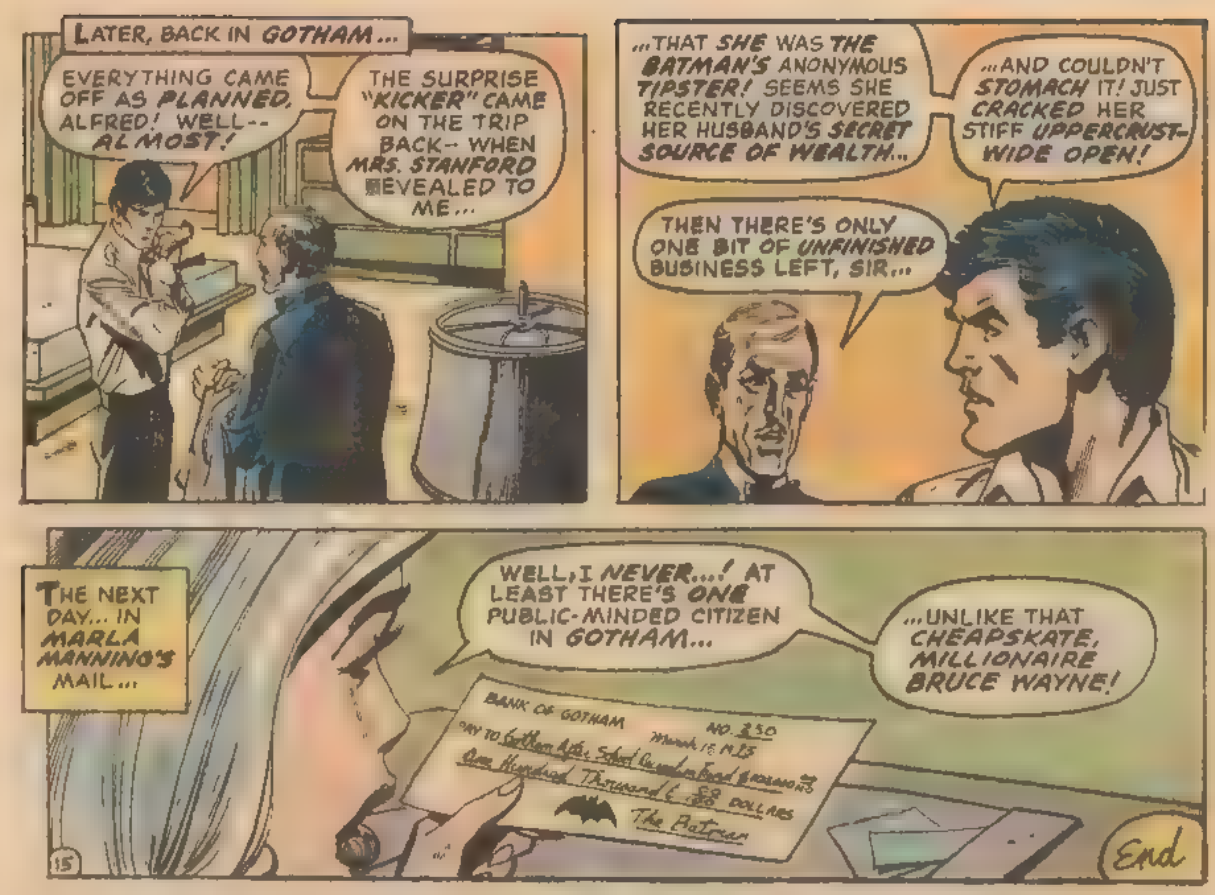
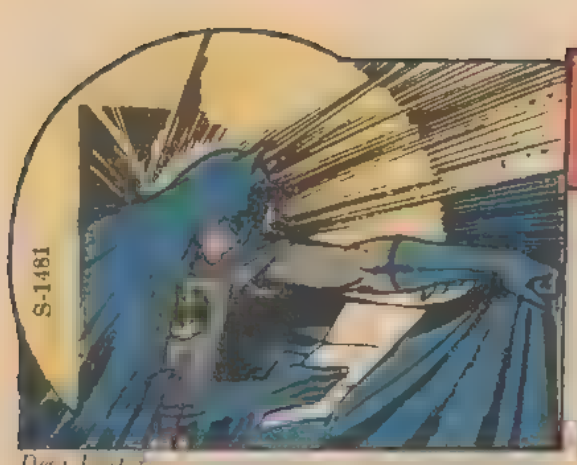
BUT THE CAPED CRIME-FIGHTER'S DIVERSIONARY TACTIC BRINGS UNEXPECTED RESULTS WHEN...
HUH ?
G-GUH!... LAY OFF, BATMAN! L-LOOK WHERE WE'RE HEADED!
JUMP!
TOO LATE TO STOP...
KABOOM!
BRAVO! WAYNE HAS OUTDONE HIMSELF!
WHAT A BLAZING FINISH TO THE SOCIAL SEASON!
SHORTLY...
WELCOME BACK ABOARD, STANFORD OLD BOY...
...BUT NOT BACK TO OUR "CLUB"!
THE BATMAN TELLS ME YOU'VE DISGRACED US!
14


LATER, BACK IN GOTHAM...
EVERYTHING CAME OFF AS PLANNED, ALFRED! WELL-- ALMOST!
THE SURPRISE "KICKER" CAME ON THE TRIP BACK- WHEN MRS. STANFORD REVEALED TO ME...
...THAT SHE WAS THE BATMAN'S ANONYMOUS TIPSTER! SEEMS SHE RECENTLY DISCOVERED HER HUSBAND'S SECRET SOURCE OF WEALTH...
...AND COULDN'T STOMACH IT! JUST CRACKED HER STIFF UPPERCRUST-WIDE OPEN!
THEN THERE'S ONLY ONE BIT OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS LEFT, SIR...
THE NEXT DAY... IN MARLA MANNING'S MAIL...
WELL, I NEVER...! AT LEAST THERE'S ONE PUBLIC-MINDED CITIZEN IN GOTHAM...
...UNLIKE THAT CHEAPSKATE, MILLIONAIRE BRUCE WAYNE!
BANK OF GOTHAM
The Batman
15
End

H. Ad. #162

If you're sick of the same old glop run down to your newsstand and buy some PLOP!



LETTERS to the BATMAN

Dear Editor:

Shades of Halloween! A mysterious, eerie, MACABRE *Batman* story—"How Many Ways Can a Robin Die?"

Finally (with #246) the magazine that bears our hero's name has gotten back on the track. This is *The Batman* we want to see. The roof-prowling, agile-limbed master detective that strikes fear into his enemies' hearts.

No longer are we dealing with *The Batman* who first exchanges compliments and niceties with his adversaries, and then spews out a long line of melodramatic threats. This is *The Batman* who travels alone . . . unhindered by "boy wonders" or armies of supporting characters he has enlisted in his aid.

The story (a 23-pager!) was a comprehensible, enjoyable one. We were not once again bombarded by the supernatural, or an international band of evil-doers, but a good, intriguing mystery.

This is the type of detection-mystery story I think myself and other readers want. Not some slow-paced "Can you spot the clue that solved the murder?" type story, but one in which the character is required to do some thinking and show some ingenuity.

Frank Robbins fooled me. All the way through the story I suspected the villain would be *Two-Face*, the *Joker*, or some other super-villain. Boy, was I wrong! I couldn't believe my eyes . . . a real criminal, a psychopathic murderer. And an *axe* murderer! What's happened? All the time I thought comix were only peopled with murderers who killed for wrath or power. . . .

Mr. Robbins' story was a real beauty. My only hope is that we will see *The Batman* depending less and less on *Bat*-lasers and such. These devices serve to remind us of the *(shudder!) camp Batman.*

—MARK IVERSON, Ocean Springs, Miss.

(Speaking of (shudder) camp, *give a listen to what the next* (shudder) camp-*minded correspondent makes a plea for!*—JS)

Dear Editor:

Usually, when one tries to write a letter to DC he tries to subtly (or not so subtly) gimmick it so as to capture ye editor's attention. Well, I simply have no such gimmick for *Batman* 246, but I DO have several comments.

The cover was not up to par with the recent issues; but considering the fantastic covers appearing on issues of *Batman* since #242, that statement is really a compliment.

As usual, the story was 100% entertainment. But I seemed to enjoy it even more for the nostalgia of *Batman* and *Robin* being together once again. The mystery and suspense of the old *Batman-TV* show, the rejuvenation of the *Bat*-signal, and *Robin's* extremely poor camp humor at the end all were the highlights which made for a very agreeable story out of "How Many Ways Can a Robin Die?" But I especially was very happy not to be troubled by the theme of relevance which is quite out of place in comix.

Please bring back the *camp*, corny, irrelevant, enjoyable, and *entertaining* comix stories of yesteryear when comix were a haven *away* from the troubled world.

—JIM BALKO, Holden, Ma.

Dear Editor:

"How Many Ways Can a Robin Die?" simply did not hang together. Obviously the story was episodic in nature, as dictated by the requirements of the plot. But the explanation of the killings seemed contrived; the lines of *Batman's* reasoning tenuous, and the ending was corny beyond belief.

It is usually a pleasure reading a Frank Robbins story (when it is not bogged down by Frank Robbins artwork). This time, however, the pleasure was limited by the aforementioned complaints. To Mr. Robbins' credit, though, the premise of the story was a fine one indeed. The idea of destroying *Batman* by mental anguish, reducing him to a gibbering idiot, appeals to me (in the sense of a ten best ways to get-the-*Batman* list). The idea is especially orignal; *Superman* has always justified his relationship with *Lois Lane* with just that contention—that criminals and other assorted forces of evil would get at him through her.

The uniqueness of the situation with *Batman* lies in the fact that whereas *Superman* is invulnerable, *The Batman* is very definitely not. Evil forces would not *have* to strike at *Batman* mentally; he can be destroyed by a well-placed bullet. Undoubtedly he would crack far sooner under psychological stress than if he were alone in a room with 700 trained assassins, for all his training would find its culmination in disarming all 700 in one fell swoop. He does not expect psychological warfare, however, and therefore cannot deal with it as effectively. This was the value of the story—it pointed out that *The Batman*, despite his incredible physical prowess, his uncanny luck, his unsurpassed detective skills, *is* at the base of it all, a mere mortal.

—SUSAN BREGMAN, Providence, R.I.

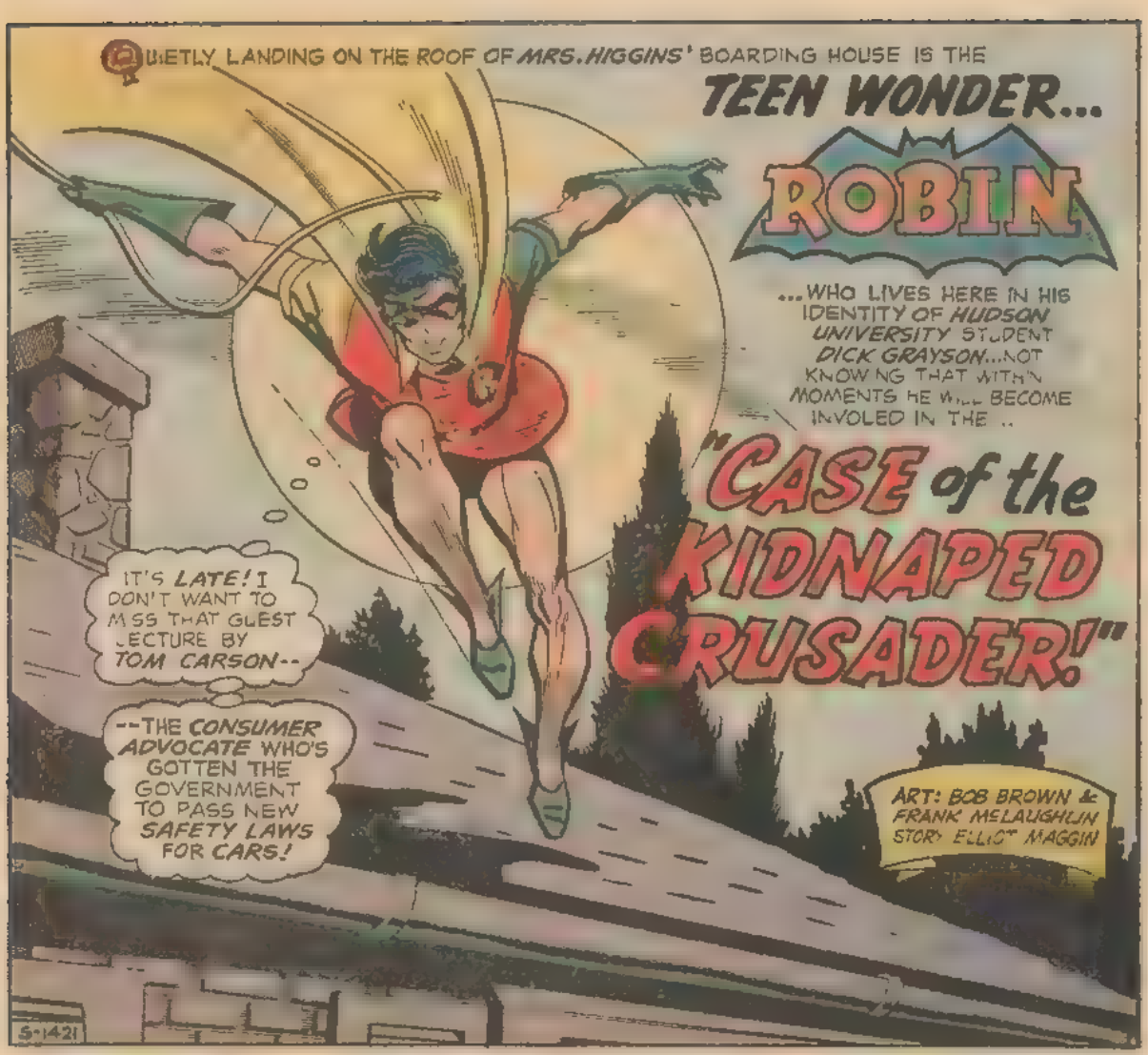
Dear Editor:

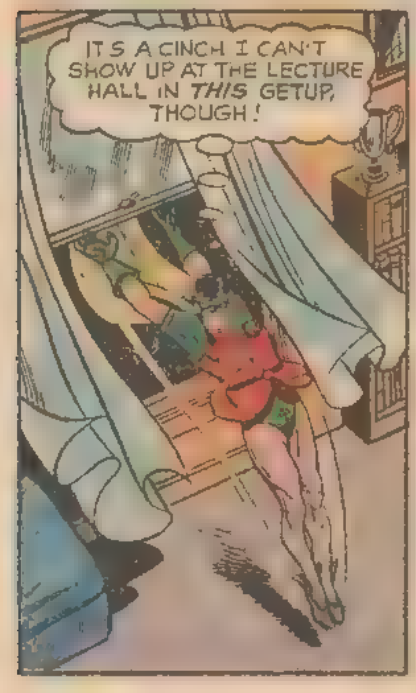
"How Many Ways Can a Robin Die" (#246) prompted me to write my first letter to DC. Frank Robbins certainly turned in one of his finest scripts yet. Although everyone knows you wouldn't kill off *Robin*, the story still managed to keep one on the edge of his seat with suspense: wondering if *Batman* could have saved *Robin* if the dummies had been real.

What was truly interesting and captivating was witnessing *The Batman's* reactions and thoughts to each "death". The thought balloons were used effectively and undoubtedly brought us "closer" to *The Batman* by manifesting his anxieties, perplexities, amazements, and mind-rendering deductions. I commend Robbins for giving us an emotional, human *Batman* instead of the usual, reserved *Batman.*

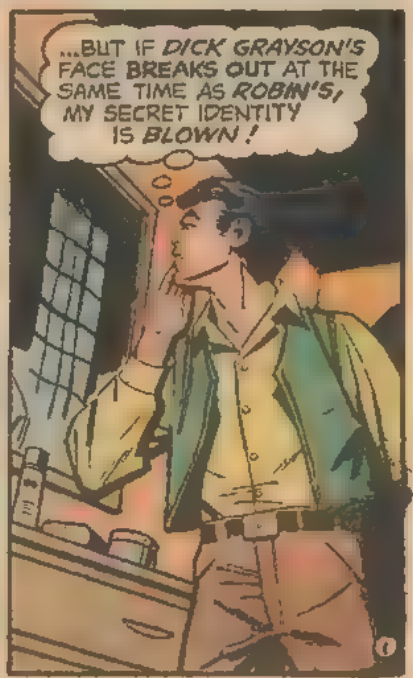
—JOHN ALBAUGH, Columbus, Ohio

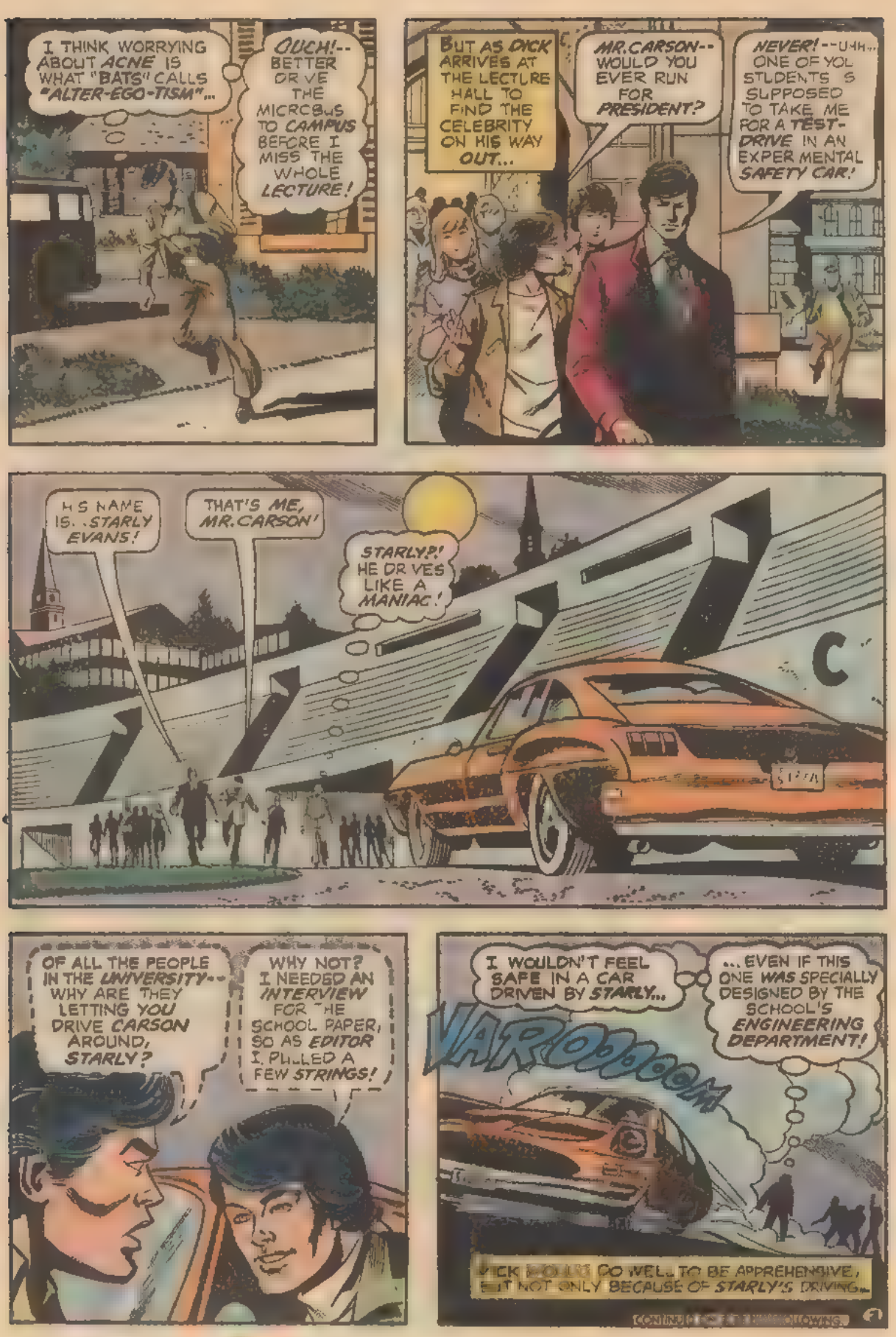
Address communications to LETTERS TO THE BATMAN, National Periodical Publications, 909 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.


QUIETLY LANDING ON THE ROOF OF MRS. HIGGINS' BOARDING HOUSE IS THE
TEEN WONDER...
ROBIN
...WHO LIVES HERE IN HIS IDENTITY OF HUDSON UNIVERSITY STUDENT DICK GRAYSON...NOT KNOWING THAT WITHIN MOMENTS HE WILL BECOME INVOLED IN THE ..
"CASE of the KIDNAPED CRUSADER!"
IT'S LATE! I DON'T WANT TO MISS THAT GUEST LECTURE BY TOM CARSON--
--THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE WHO'S GOTTEN THE GOVERNMENT TO PASS NEW SAFETY LAWS FOR CARS!
ART: BOB BROWN & FRANK McLAUGHLIN
STORY ELLIOT MAGGIN
5-1421


IT'S A CINCH I CAN'T SHOW UP AT THE LECTURE HALL IN THIS GETUP, THOUGH!

HMMM...CLARK KENT THINKS HE HAS PROBLEMS WITH ONLY THOSE GLASSES TO DISGUISE HIS FACE...


...BUT IF DICK GRAYSON'S FACE BREAKS OUT AT THE SAME TIME AS ROBIN'S, MY SECRET IDENTITY IS BLOWN!


I THINK WORRYING ABOUT ACNE IS WHAT "BATS" CALLS "ALTER-EGO-TISM"...
OUCH!-- BETTER DRIVE THE MICROBUS TO CAMPUS BEFORE I MISS THE WHOLE LECTURE!
BUT AS DICK ARRIVES AT THE LECTURE HALL TO FIND THE CELEBRITY ON HIS WAY OUT...
MR. CARSON-- WOULD YOU EVER RUN FOR PRESIDENT?
NEVER! --UHH... ONE OF YOU STUDENTS IS SUPPOSED TO TAKE ME FOR A TEST-DRIVE IN AN EXPERIMENTAL SAFETY CAR!
HIS NAME IS... STARLY EVANS!
THAT'S ME, MR. CARSON!
STARLY?! HE DRIVES LIKE A MANIAC!
OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE UNIVERSITY-- WHY ARE THEY LETTING YOU DRIVE CARSON AROUND, STARLY?
WHY NOT? I NEEDED AN INTERVIEW FOR THE SCHOOL PAPER, SO AS EDITOR I PULLED A FEW STRINGS!
I WOULDN'T FEEL SAFE IN A CAR DRIVEN BY STARLY...
...EVEN IF THIS ONE WAS SPECIALLY DESIGNED BY THE SCHOOL'S ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT!
VAROOOOM
DICK WOULD BE WELL TO BE APPREHENSIVE, BUT NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF STARLY'S DRIVING...
CONTINUED ON THE FOLLOWING

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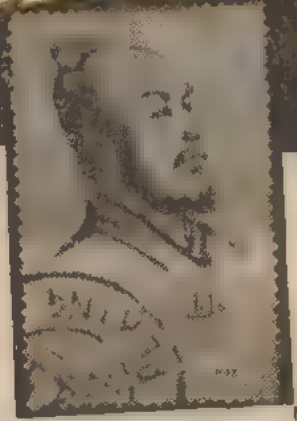

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Name .....
Address .....
City, State, Zip .....

MAIL COUPON TODAY!

.. FOR AS THE CAR ROUNDS THE TRACK ..
AN EXPLOSION! C'MON--THEY MIGHT NEED HELP!
MOMENTS LATER, THE EXPERIMENTAL CAR SKIDS TO A HALT AND A RATTLED DRIVER PULLS HIMSELF OUT...
STARLY! YOU ALL R-GHT?
HEY... WHERE'S CARSON?
I...DON'T KNOW! THE EXPLOSION DIDN'T DAMAGE THE CAR--OR ME--AT ALL!
BUT CARSON DISAPPEARED... WITH THE SMOKE!
I'M DUCKING BACK TO MY MICROBUS...
SMOKE DISAPPEARS INTO THIN AIR-- NOT HUMANS!
THIS MYSTERY CALLS FOR AN EXPERIENCED INVESTIGATOR... L KE ROBIN!
BUT BY THE TIME THE TEEN-AGE DETECTIVE SHOWS UP, SO DO THE NEW CARTHAGE POLICE...
YOU'RE TAK NG THE CAR AWAY--?
ALL RIGHT, KIDS-- WE'LL HANDLE THIS!
AREN'T YOU GOING TO LOOK FOR TOM CARSON F.RST?
DON'T TELL US WHAT TO DO, KID! JUST GO STUDY SOMETHIN'-- OR WHATEVER YOU DO AROUND HERE!
HOLD ON, OFFICERS-- I WOULD LIKE TO INSPECT THAT CAR!

ANY PARTICULAR REASON YOU OFFICERS ARE IN SUCH A HURRY TO IMPOUND--?
WHAT GIVES YOU THE AUTHORITY TO INTERFERE IN--
IT'S OKAY SAM-- LET ROBIN INSPECT THE EVIDENCE...
..WE CAN USE ALL THE HELP HE CAN GIVE US!
YEAH... SURE...
THE MOST LOGICAL EXPLANATION IS THAT SOMEONE NABBED CARSON UNDER COVER OF THE SMOKE..
...BUT HOW DID THAT SOMEONE DO IT SO QUICKLY?
ALL--UHH... THROUGH, ROBIN? WE'D LIKE TO GET
SOMEHOW I HAVE THE FEELING THE COPS ARE IN A HURRY TO CARRY OUT THEIR OWN INVESTIGATION... IN PRIVATE!
AS THE DRIVER, YOU'LL BE WANTED FOR QUESTIONING, SON!
UHH--S-SURE! I'LL BE AROUND WHENEVER YOU WANT ME...
MY THEORY THAT CARSON MIGHT BE LOCKED UP IN THE CAR SOMEWHERE DIDN'T CHECK OUT...
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING
4

You say you know that PLOP is coming... but you don't know what PLOP is?

Is that what's troubling you, boy?

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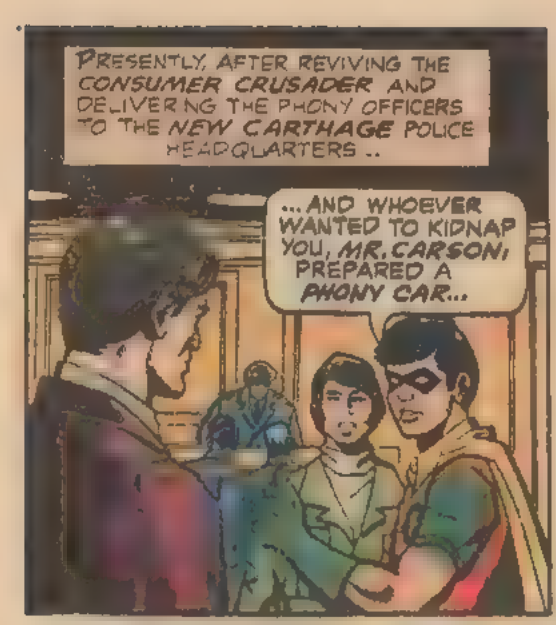
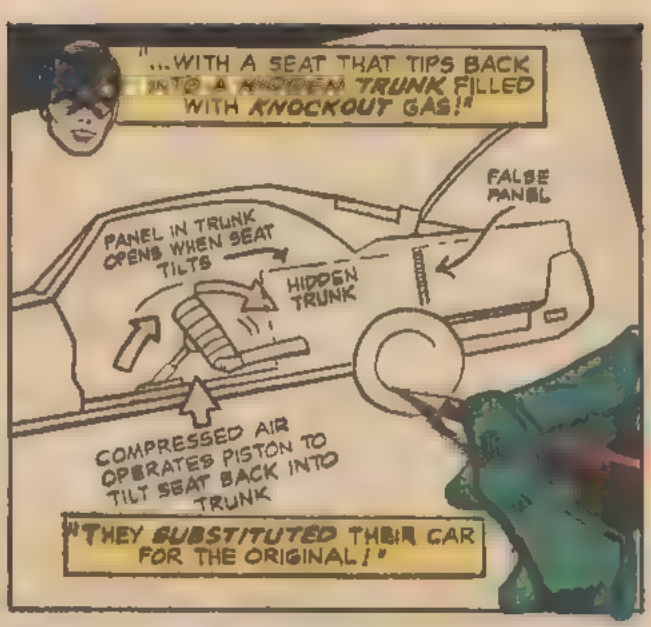
80 ☐ FROM BEYOND THE UNKNOWN
81 ☐ STRANGE ADVENTURES

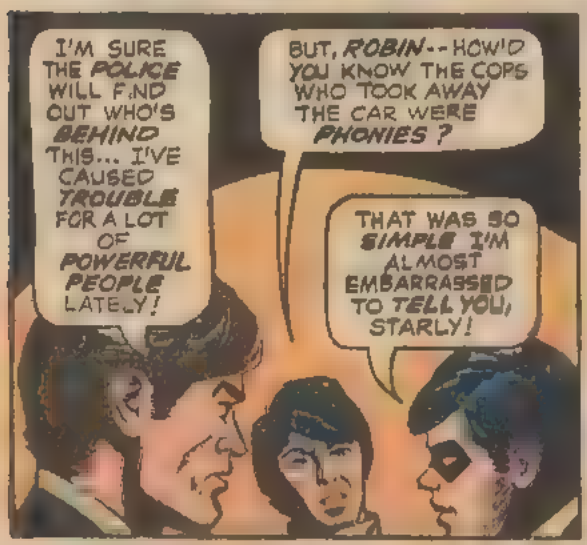
AND AS THE TWO POLICEMEN DRIVE OFF
HEY, I HOPE THOSE COPS DON'T SUSPECT ME! ALL I D.D WAS KEEP MY HANDS ON THE WHEEL--
HOLD ON! THAT'S IT--!
SECTION B
THOSE TWO GUYS WEREN'T POLICE AT ALL!
WHAT'S THAT YOU SAID, ROBIN? CAN'T HEAR YOU OVER ALL THE NOISE!
TRRRRR
PUT PUT
GOOD LUCK ROBIN-- WHATEVER YOU'RE UP TO!
AS THE TEEN WONDER ROARS OFF IN PURSUIT OF THE EXPERIMENTAL CAR, WHAT MAKES HIM SO SURE THE CAR IS NOT BEING DRIVEN BY TWO POLICEMEN?
Y'SEE, SAM, WE HADDA LET THE KID LOOK THROUGH THE CAR...OR HE WOULDA BEEN SUSPICIOUS!
WELL, IF YOU THINK WE THREW HIM OFF, PAL--
--GUESS AGAIN!
PULL OVER, YOU PHONIES!
GUN IT!
5

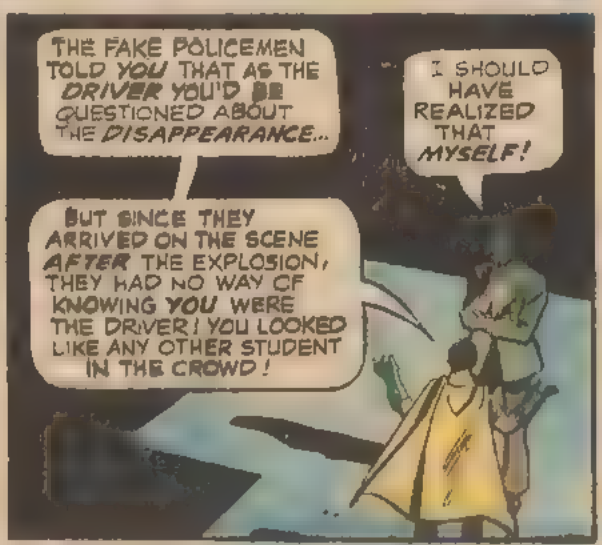
A CHASE BEGINS... A SOUPED-UP MOTORCYCLE AFTER AN ULTRA-MODERN CAR DOWN A RURAL CAMPUS ROAD...
HE'S DRIVING THROUGH THE FIELD!
WANTS TO CUT US OFF--!
WHAT THE BRAT WANTS--AND GETS--ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS!
HANG ON--WE'RE BACKTRACKIN'!
HEY--WHY'D WE PANIC BECAUSE ROBIN CAME AFTER US?
ALL WE HADDA DO WAS CON HIM LIKE BEFORE...
CON THAT KID TWICE?--FORGET IT!
COME ON, FELLAS...
...GIVE UP SO NO ONE GETS HURT!
NO ONE'S GONNA GET HURT BUT YOU, BRAT!
WHY'DJA GO OFF THE ROAD?! CAN'T GET A CLEAR SHOT!
I COULDN'T HELP IT! HE FORCED ME!
BAM
CLANK

AS ROBIN PULLS AHEAD OF THE PAIR...
THEY'RE DESPERATE...
...AND THE ONLY WAY TO STOP DESPERATE MEN...
...IS TO BE DESPERATE YOURSELF!
HE--HE'S STOPPING SHORT... RIGHT IN FRONT OF US!
THIS CAR'S SUPER-SAFE, REMEMBER?
I'LL GRIND HIM INTO THE DIRT!
BUT A SPLIT-SECOND BEFORE THE CAR RAMS INTO THE CYCLE, THE TEEN TITAN LEAPS INTO THE AIR AND...
NO CAR IS GOING TO BE "SUPER-SAFE" UNLESS YOU PUT ON YOUR SAFETY BELT!
THEY'LL BE OUT LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO CHECK THE TRUNK COMPARTMENT
...AGAIN!
THERE MUST BE A SECRET LATCH--
AH! HELLO THERE--
IT'S TOM CARSON! UNCONSCIOUS IN THE TRUNK COMPARTMENT ALL ALONG!


PRESENTLY, AFTER REVIVING THE CONSUMER CRUSADER AND DELIVERING THE PHONY OFFICERS TO THE NEW CARTHAGE POLICE HEADQUARTERS ..
...AND WHOEVER WANTED TO KIDNAP YOU, MR. CARSON, PREPARED A PHONY CAR...


"...WITH A SEAT THAT TIPS BACK INTO A HIDDEN TRUNK FILLED WITH KNOCKOUT GAS!"
FALSE PANEL
PANEL IN TRUNK OPENS WHEN SEAT TILTS
HIDDEN TRUNK
COMPRESSED AIR OPERATES PISTON TO TILT SEAT BACK INTO TRUNK
"THEY SUBSTITUTED THEIR CAR FOR THE ORIGINAL!"

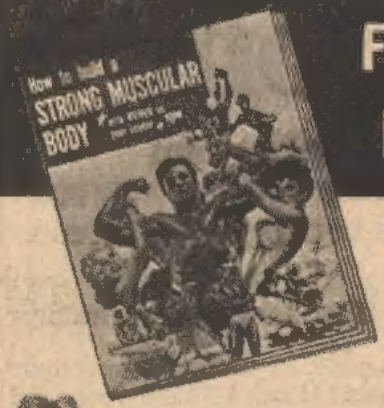

I'M SURE THE POLICE WILL FIND OUT WHO'S BEHIND THIS... I'VE CAUSED TROUBLE FOR A LOT OF POWERFUL PEOPLE LATELY!
BUT, ROBIN--HOW'D YOU KNOW THE COPS WHO TOOK AWAY THE CAR WERE PHONIES?
THAT WAS SO SIMPLE I'M ALMOST EMBARRASSED TO TELL YOU, STARLY!


THE FAKE POLICEMEN TOLD YOU THAT AS THE DRIVER YOU'D BE QUESTIONED ABOUT THE DISAPPEARANCE...
I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED THAT MYSELF!
BUT SINCE THEY ARRIVED ON THE SCENE AFTER THE EXPLOSION, THEY HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING YOU WERE THE DRIVER! YOU LOOKED LIKE ANY OTHER STUDENT IN THE CROWD!

THANKS VERY MUCH, ROBIN...
SORRY I CAN'T STAY, BUT I'M LATE FOR AN APPOINTMENT IN WASHINGTON, AND STARLY'S OFFERED TO DRIVE ME TO THE AIRPORT!
PERSONALLY, I WOULDN'T TRUST STARLY'S DRIVING AT ANY SPEED...
...BUT IT'S CARSON'S PROBLEM!

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE ON OR ABOUT APRIL 17th

Joe Weider's FREE Body-Building Booklet Is YOUR FIRST STEP TO A POWERFUL, HEALTHY & HANDSOME BODY!



Weider-Pupil
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Winner "Mr. America"
"Mr. Universe"
Read all about his fantastic development and world record!

LET IT HAPPEN TO YOU NOW *before* another valuable day in your life goes by. This Champion Did Not Waste His Time!

Dave sent for Joe Weider's Free Booklet and not only packed inches to his arms, chest, legs in just 7 short weeks, but went on to become an admired Champion . . . a golden god of power, health and good looks!

He started as you are about to start, sending for the Free information. He read the brief facts and then ACTIONIZED the knowledge faithfully. In some 15 minutes a day, at home, he slapped big inches to his chest, powerful inches to each arm, rugged muscles to shoulders and back, speed and strength to legs and a whole new power-punch throughout his entire body! SO CAN YOU!

Joe Weider's proven body-building methods don't fail, unless YOU are weak-spirited and lifeless! The valuable details, the inside tips and scientific short-cuts are for those who want MORE OUT OF LIFE; more out of REAL LIVING and more of the FINER THINGS! This is all within YOUR grasp! Take the opportunity NOW . . . decide, right now, to make something of yourself and in about 7 short weeks you can enjoy the fruits of your decision . . . the decision to develop into a physical champion with all the benefits and rewards you want and deserve!

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Here's the kind of body I want (Check as many as you wish).

- ☐ Bigger arms
- ☐ Larger Chest
- ☐ Broader Shoulders
- ☐ Athletic Legs
- ☐ More Weight
- ☐ Lose Weight
- ☐ Magnetic Personality

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To help you choose the right career field, we have listed 14 opportunities in the coupon below. You are invited to discover everything you want to know about the field you like best, by simply mailing the coupon below for a free Career Guidance Booklet.

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- ☐ Industrial/Production Management
- ☐ Marketing/Advertising/Sales Management

3. MOTEL/HOTEL MANAGEMENT
- ☐ Motel Management
- ☐ Club/Restaurant Management
- ☐ Resort Manager
- ☐ Hotel Executive

4. COMPUTER PROGRAMMING
- ☐ Programming Concepts
- ☐ COBOL ☐ System 360
- ☐ Fortran IV

5. INTERIOR DECORATING & DESIGN
- ☐ Interior Decorator
- ☐ Interior Designer
- ☐ Advanced Interior Designer

6. ELECTRICIAN
- ☐ Master Electrician
- ☐ Practical Electrician

7. SECRETARIAL
- ☐ Medical
- ☐ Legal
- ☐ Executive

8. DRAFTING
- ☐ General Drafting
- ☐ Specialized Training (Arch., Mech., Struct., Electrical), Aircraft, Electronics)

9. AUTOMOTIVE
- ☐ Master Mechanic
- ☐ Air Conditioning Specialist
- ☐ Body Rebuilding Specialist
- ☐ Diesel/Gas Mechanic

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- ☐ Mechanical ☐ Civil
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